

WILLIAM H. VICKERS.

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JANUARY 27, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. MIERS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 3027.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3027) granting an increase of pension to William H. Vickers, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to increase the pension of this soldier from \$17 to \$24 per month.

This soldier, who is now 75 years of age, served as a private in Company I, Nineteenth Illinois Infantry, from June 17, 1861, to July 31, 1862, when discharged by reason or disability. He was treated while in the service for intermittent fever, diarrhea, and a contusion received in an accident on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, September 17, 1861.

He is now a pensioner under the general law at \$17 per month on account of chronic diarrhea and resulting dyspepsia, and disease of rectum.

A claim on account of additional disabilities, namely, rheumatism, deafness, and spinal irritation, was rejected in January, 1900, upon the ground of no record of treatment for said disabilities in the service and claimant's inability, aided by a special examination, to prove the origin in the service and line of duty of said disabilities.

A claim for increase of pension, filed June 20, 1901, was rejected in April, 1902, upon the ground that the degree of disability from the pensioned causes did not warrant a rating in excess of \$17 per month.

The proof obtained upon special examination so far as it related to the claim on account of rheumatism, tends to indicate that the soldier suffered from rheumatism from shortly after his return from the service to the present time.

When last examined on October 16, 1901, the board of surgeons rated the soldier \$8 for general debility, \$10 for chronic diarrhea and resulting dyspepsia, \$8 for piles, \$10 for rheumatism, and \$6 for slight catarrhal deafness of both ears.

In view of the above, an increase of the soldier's pension from \$17 to \$24 per month is fully justified, hence the passage of the bill is recommended.

